

UNSHAKEABLE

INTIMACY WITH GOD LEADS TO CONFIDENT FAITH

About the Series: In a dark world, God is light. In a cold world, God brings love. In a dying world, God brings life. In this study of John's first letter, you will learn what it means to be in fellowship with God and see that growing more intimately close to Him builds up a confident faith that will allow you to be unshakeable in times of uncertainties.

PART 6

Think for Yourself

1 John 3:24-4:6 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think you are a discerning person? Why or why not?
2. Joseph Stowell of Moody Institute defined discernment in the scripture as the skill that enables us to differentiate; it is the ability to see issues clearly. We desperately need to cultivate this spiritual skill that will enable us to know right from wrong and be unshakeable in our faith. Read 1 John 3:24-4:6. Here we learn three biblical principles that help us develop biblical discernment.

Test everything to see if it is in alignment with God's standards as revealed in the Bible (v. 3:24-4:3). What are the essential ministries of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life? Why should you be careful not to believe every spiritual thing you hear or encounter daily? Why is it important that you know Scripture and use it in its proper context? How does 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 warn you of the tricks of Satan? What does verses 2-3 say should be your criteria to know if the Spirit is from God or not?

Fear should not influence right decisions because children of God have the all-powerful Holy Spirit (v. 4). How can you, as a child of

God, overcome the world? How do you feel about the truth that God is greater than Satan? How does fear cloud discernment? What fear does the enemy use to have power over you? If God the Holy Spirit who is with you is greater than Satan and this world, why do you need to be afraid? How can your confidence in God's supremacy over Satan be reflected in how you love your life?

Our responsibility is to discern truth versus error regardless of the majority of accepted views (v. 5-6). Whose viewpoint does the false teachers speak of? How can you tell the difference between the world's viewpoint and God's viewpoint? Share examples of how biblical truths are being altered by the world. Is your life being influenced by popular public opinion or by biblical conviction based on careful and thoughtful theological reflection?

Reflect & Respond

How can you protect yourself from the world that is trying to deceive you? How would you develop a desire for truth and to live it out? Pray and ask God for wisdom as you test for truth and for error. Think of influences in your life that you should "put to the test" to see if they are from God or not.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I am humbly asking for discernment to tell what is right from wrong, good from bad, genuine from counterfeit, based on the truths in the Scripture. Being bombarded by what the world says and what the popular beliefs are, I admit that I need to be wise in what I believe. Thank You for the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that through Him I can be protected from the world. Through Him, I can understand biblical truths and live them out. Thank You for being the God who is greater than he who is in the world. I pray this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.